

## **Moran Announces Funding for Facilities at Ft. Riley**

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to fund military construction projects for 2005. The legislation includes funding to improve housing at Ft. Riley and construct a new communications center.

"I have seen the rough living conditions in places like Iraq and Afghanistan that our soldiers deal with on a daily basis, and they do it without complaint," Moran said. "When they return from their deployments, they deserve a safe and clean living environment. It is a basic need that we all share, and this funding will help provide the necessary housing that our soldiers and their families need."

Today's legislation includes \$41 million to construct new barracks with 312 units, a dining facility and a building for four company headquarters. In addition, the legislation includes \$3.05 million for a new communications center. The center will replace the existing telephone switch building on Custer Hill, which has sustained major damage, placing the switch system at risk for failure due to settlement.

"It is important that our military men and women have the equipment necessary to

ensure that our fighting force is prepared to defend our country," Moran said. "Kansas has always taken great pride in hosting our troops, and we want to make sure that they have what is necessary to support our war effort."

In addition, the House approved 2005 funding legislation for the Department of Defense, which includes added benefits for military men and women. The legislation includes an average 3.5 percent pay increase for military personnel and reduces the out-of-pocket housing expenses for troops from 3.5 percent to zero.

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